

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A valve prosthesis apparatus, in particular for cardiac applications, apparatus ~~(10)~~ comprising a valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ applied on a suture ring ~~(30)~~; apparatus ~~(10)~~ that is ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ is fastened to said suture ring ~~(30)~~ by magnetic means ~~(21d, 30b)~~.

2.(Currently Amended) Valve prosthesis apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said magnetic means ~~(21d, 30b)~~ are contained in a respective continuous groove ~~(21c, 30a)~~ obtained respectively on said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ and on said suture ring ~~(30)~~.

3.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one part of said magnetic means ~~(21d)~~ are contained in a continuous groove ~~(21c, 30a)~~ obtained in a stent ~~(21)~~, which is a part of said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~.

4.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said magnetic means ~~(21d, 30b)~~ comprise a plurality of magnets ~~(21d, 30b)~~.

5.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said magnetic means ~~(21d, 30b)~~ comprise magnets with annular shape

6.(Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ comprises a stent ~~(21)~~ and valve strips ~~(40)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 6, characterised in that wherein said valve strips ~~(40)~~ are made of a biomaterial.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 7, characterised in that wherein said biomaterial is derived from corneal stroma, in particular from corneal stroma of tuna fish.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein at least one portion of said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ and at least one portion of said suture ring ~~(30)~~ are coated by a synthetic tissue ~~(50)~~ able to facilitate the suture of said valve prosthesis ~~(20)~~ and of said suture ring ~~(30)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein said valve prosthesis and said suture ring are made of deformable materials such as to allow their insertion into the body of a patient through a catheter, i.e. without having to proceed to a traditional heart surgery operation.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10, characterised in that wherein the magnets are immersed in said deformable materials.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10, characterised in that wherein the suture ring is made of a synthetic material, in particular polyester.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~(10)~~ as claimed in according to claim 10, characterised in that wherein the suture ring has a plurality of hooks able to facilitate its fastening in the implant site.

14. (Original) A system for implanting in the human body a prosthetic apparatus comprising a magnetic valve prosthesis and a magnetic suture ring which are easily deformable by compression; said implant system comprising the following steps:

- (a) temporarily reducing by compression the dimensions of the magnetic valve prosthesis (module no. 2) and the magnetic suture ring (module no. 1) in such a way as to allow their insertion in a catheter able to transport said modules no. 1 and no. 2 in the implant site;
- (b) inserting said catheter carrying said modules no. 1 and no. 2 into a peripheral vein or artery under constant angiographic control;
- (c) releasing the suture ring, which is expanded until assuming the original dimensions, once it reaches the implant site;
- (d) fastening said suture ring in the implant site;
- (e) releasing the valve prosthesis, which is expanded until assuming the original dimensions, once it reaches the implant site; and
- (f) magnetically fastening said valve prosthesis to said suture ring.